

USSN 09/769,405  
Art unit 3679  
Examiner J.R. Schiffman

### Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

### Listing of Claims

1. (Currently amended)      A rod coupling, comprising:  
a tubular housing having a first end adapted for threaded connection to a rod in a downhole rod string and a second end adapted for threaded connection to a rod in a downhole rod string, the tubular housing having an interior surface defining a hollow bore extending along the tubular housing from the first end to the second end, the tubular housing having an exterior surface;  
plural openings extending transversely through the housing from the interior surface to the exterior surface; and  
a coating on the exterior surface of the tubular housing and covering the plural openings [[:]] , whereby in operation downhole, differential pressure between downhole pressure and pressure in the hollow bore assists in securing the wear coating on the tubular housing.
2. (Original)    The rod coupling of claim 1 in which the coating extends into the openings.
3. (Original)    The rod coupling of claim 1 in which the coating extends through the openings to form knobs inside the tubular housing.
4. (Original)    The rod coupling of claim 1 in which the openings taper from the exterior surface towards the interior surface.
5. (Original)    The rod coupling of claim 1 in which the openings are distributed uniformly around the tubular housing.

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6. (Original) The rod coupling of claim 1 in which the openings are distributed in plural rows.

7. (Currently amended) A rod string formed of plural rods connected by plural rod couplings, each rod coupling comprising:

a tubular housing having a first end adapted for threaded connection to a rod in a downhole rod string and a second end adapted for threaded connection to a rod in a downhole rod string, the tubular housing having an interior surface defining a hollow bore extending along the tubular housing from the first end to the second end, the tubular housing having an exterior surface;

plural openings extending transversely through the housing from the interior surface to the exterior surface; and

a coating on the exterior surface of the tubular housing and covering the plural openings [[:]] , whereby in operation downhole, differential pressure between downhole pressure and pressure in the hollow bore assists in securing the wear coating on the tubular housing.

8. (Original) The rod string of claim 7 in which the openings taper from the exterior surface towards the interior surface.

9. (Original) The rod string of claim 7 in which the openings are distributed uniformly around the tubular housing.

10. (Original) The rod string of claim 7 in which the openings are distributed in plural rows.

11. (Original) The rod string of claim 7 in which the coating extends into the openings.

12. (Original) The rod string of claim 7 in which the coating extends through the openings to form knobs inside the tubular housing.